St. Mary
Coptic Orthodox Church, Ottawa

Twenty Fifth Anniversary

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Preamble

St. Mary’s Church is joyous to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its consecration, particularly at the time of the visit of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II. His Holiness arrived to Canada early in September 2014 and started in Toronto to launch the 50th anniversary of beginning the Coptic Church Service in Canada with the coming of Fr. Marcos Marcos in 1964. HH Pope Tawadros concluded his Canadian visit by coming to Ottawa towards the end of September and held the Divine Liturgy on the second day of the Feast of the Cross on Sunday September 28, 2014 at St. Mary’s Church.

The purpose of this booklet is to briefly outline the phases of service that preceded the registration of the church with the Canadian authorities, and what followed thereafter, through the blessed service of the Lord’s Shepherds. Of course several lay-servants dedicated their talents and time for the service of the church during the periods mentioned in this booklet, some of them departed to heaven and others are continuing their services in all love and humility. The names of these servants and their respective work of love in the church will be covered in other documents which detail the history of the church. May the Lord reward all with His goodness.

The Lord’s hand and His grace have been, and are still evident, with His Church at all time. In addition to the main altar (Saint Mary’s), the church is blessed with a smaller chapel in the names of Saint Anthony and Saint Paul, and continues to be blessed with the intercession of the saints.
Introduction

It is the will of our Lord to have a Coptic Orthodox Altar in almost every major city in the world, including Canada’s Capital.

This booklet is published on the occasion of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of consecrating the altars of St. Mary’s Coptic Orthodox Church in Ottawa. The consecration was performed on September 1, 1989, by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, the 117th, Pope and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark the apostle. The booklet outlines briefly the history and main accomplishments of the Coptic Church Congregation in the greater Ottawa area, dating back to the early sixties.

Before Registration as “Church” (1964-1973)

The first celebration of the Coptic Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Ottawa took place in the fall of 1964. The Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Marcos Marcos Abdelmassih, the first priest ordained in 1964 by the late St. Pope Kyrollos VI to serve the Coptic community in North America. From his home base in Toronto, Fr. Marcos travelled to various Canadian and American cities to serve the respective Coptic congregations on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

In 1967, Fr. Rafael Younan arrived in Canada to be the second Coptic priest in North America. He resided in Montreal, Quebec. He celebrated the Divine Liturgy in Ottawa once a month (on a Saturday) in St. Margaret’s Anglican Church, Vanier, Ontario.
Registration as “Church” in 1973

Fr. Rafael encouraged the small congregation in Ottawa (about 10-15 families in 1972) to work towards registering the activities of the community as a church. The Church was officially registered on April 26, 1973 in the Government of Ontario, under the name St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Ottawa, registration number 266453.

First Resident Priest (Fr. Mankarios Awadalla, Spring 1976-Fall 1985)

As the congregation grew to about 20 active members, they longed for a regular service to fulfill their spiritual and social needs. Early in 1976, Fr. Mankarious Awadalla who, at that time, resided in Toronto with his family, was contacted and accepted to serve the church in Ottawa on a temporary basis.

After celebrating the first Good Friday and Easter services, at St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Ottawa on April 22-24, 1976, Fr. Mankarios agreed to celebrate the Divine Liturgy twice a month in Ottawa. HH Pope Shenouda’s permission to have Fr. Mankarios serve the Coptic Church in Ottawa was requested and obtained. Regular Sunday celebration of the Divine Liturgy thus started on June 6, 1976 at St. Margaret’s Anglican Church in Vanier, Ontario. Shortly thereafter, services started in the old chapel of Christ’s Anglican Church in Bells Corners, west of Ottawa.

One of the first activities, which Fr. Mankarios started in Ottawa, was the publication of St. Mary’s calendar which includes daily devotions, feasts, synexarion, and Sunday readings. This calendar became a household mark in many Coptic homes in North America.
Pope Shenouda’s 1st Visit to Ottawa (April 25-27, 1977)

During March and April 1977, his Holiness Pope Shenouda (accompanied by Bishop Samuel of General Services, Bishop Youannis of Gharbia, Bishop Pachomious of Boheira, Bishop Tadros of Port Said, and Bishop Antonios Morcos of African Mission, and Fr. Aghapbios Ava Pishoy (the late Bishop Agnatios of Suez), made his first pastoral visit to the Coptic communities in the USA and Canada. After a long and exhausting trip, they came to the relatively small congregation in Ottawa.

Shortly after arrival on April 25, a Thanksgiving prayer was held at the Holy Cross Catholic Church on Walkely Road. This was followed by a reception at the Holiday Inn, Kent Street attended by the ambassador of Egypt, his excellency Hassan Fahmy, other dignitaries, and church representatives.

On April 26, his Holiness and the accompanying clergy celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the chapel of Christ’s Church, Bells Corners. This was followed by a visit to the Embassy of Egypt and lunch with the Governor General the late Jules Leger, at Rideau Hall. Dinner at the Ambassador’s residence was followed by a meeting with the Coptic congregation at Bells Corners’ United Church. On April 27, his Holiness and the accompanying clergy had a picnic in the City of Gatineau’s Chalet at Lac Beauchamp, followed by a farewell from Ottawa International Airport.

Search for a Permanent Place of Worship

Great efforts were expended by Fr. Mankarios and members of the congregation to find a suitable and permanent place of worship or a piece of land for building a church. Eventually, Fr. Mankarios was instrumental in buying the parcel of land on which the current building for St. Mary’s Church was built (Canfield and Greenbank).
Between the fall of 1980 and spring of 1983, services were held at the Hall of St. Isodore’s Catholic Church, South March, and from spring of 1983 to fall of 1985 at St. Elizabeth’s school gymnasium, Admiral Street near Merivale Road. At the end of that period, His Holiness Pope Shenouda directed Fr. Mankarios to serve in the Toronto area. Before his departure to heaven in December 2009, Fr. Mankarios was serving the church of Ti Agia Maria and St. Demiana in Toronto, Ontario.

Transitional Period Without a Resident Priest (Fall 1985 - Summer 1986)

Services were held initially on Saturdays at St. James Anglican Church in Hull and St. Alban’s Anglican Church in Ottawa. The following blessed fathers from the Montreal and Toronto areas alternated their visits to serve in Ottawa: Fr. Pishoy Ishak, Fr. Pishoy Yassa, Fr. Athanasios Iskandar, and Fr. Ibrahim Atteya. Thereafter, Fr. Matthias Farid, who was working on his doctoral degree at St. Paul’s and Ottawa University, held services on Sundays at St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Ottawa.

Spiritual Revival and Building Construction Period (Summer 1986 - Fall 1989)

Ottawa was blessed when Fr. Tadros Malaty of St. George’s Church in Alexandria was delegated by HH Pope Shenouda to serve the Coptic community as of July 1, 1986.

Through his quiet and self-denying attitude as well as his substantial efforts in publishing spiritual books, Fr. Tadros achieved the congregation’s unity of heart which boosted the launching of the building project. The following is a brief summary of the phases of the project:
During a Church’s General Meeting on March 28, 1987, the members unanimously agreed to start the building project on the land which Fr. Mankarios had bought and dedicated for the purpose of constructing a church in the name of the Holy Mother of God, St. Mary.

Architect the late Deacon Makram Hanna and Structural Engineer Dr. Emad Baki, from a sister church in Montreal, volunteered to work on the design and execution of the project in cooperation with Deacon-Engineer Edward Mansour as the president and director of Vic Engineering Company in Ottawa, who managed the project.

Excavation started in July 1987, with the majority of church members participating in different aspects of the project, ranging from building a temporary fence around the property to project management.

Fr. Pisenty Guirgis of Alexandria, Egypt, having been delegated by his Holiness Pope Shenouda to serve in Ottawa, arrived in November 1987, and assumed the responsibilities of caring for the congregation’s spiritual needs, as well as the difficult task of completing the construction project. Fr. Tadros subsequently returned to Egypt to serve his church in Alexandria.

After completing the walls of the basement and before pouring the concrete of its roof, a small group of Deacons celebrated with Fr. Pisenty on February 9, 1988, a Divine Liturgy on the site. They mounted the holy altar tablet on bales of hay which were used to protect the cement walls against freezing (since the concrete was poured during the winter months at -30 degrees Celsius). This wonderful occasion coincided with the feast of St. Pola (Paul) the first hermit. Therefore, a large hall of the basement was dedicated as a chapel for St. Pola. It is worth mentioning that the electrical work was completed and the whole church was lit on the same day the following year (February 9, 1989).
The first phase of the project, construction of the basement, was completed in mid 1988 and the plan was to use it for all activities, including the main one, namely the Divine Liturgies. However, it came to the attention of the church members that his Holiness Pope Shenouda was going to visit North America during the period August-September 1989. Therefore, a large mortgage was assumed to complete the whole project including the upper Church building while using the basement temporarily. This was a great burden for a small community of about 60 families. However, it proved to be our Lord’s will to have the whole Church building completed, otherwise the basement would have continued to be dedicated for conducting the Divine Liturgies for more than 10 years.
Church Activities between September 1, 1989 and September 1, 1999

Pope Shenouda’s Visit and Consecration of the Church on September 1, 1989

Pope Shenouda, accompanied by Bishop Rueis, Bishop Pishoy of Demiat, Bishop Pola of Gharbia, Bishop Sarabamoun of St. Pishoy’s Monastery, Bishop Tadros of Port Said, Bishop Moses of Youth Services, Fr. Tadros Malaty, and Fr. Rafael Younan, came to Ottawa on September 1, 1989 and consecrated the main altar of St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church as well as the Chapel’s altar in the basement. His Holiness dedicated the chapel altar in the name of St. Pola.

Being a gifted iconographer, Fr. Pisenty personally painted the icon appearing on the bosom of the Father (Easterly). It was also blessed by the Holy Myron at the hands of HH Pope Shenouda.

The main church altar was completed a few days before His Holiness’ visit and the altar canopy, donated by Montreal’s St. Mark Church, was erected, through efforts of church members, by 4 A.M. on the day of consecration.

The consecration celebrations were followed by a banquet at Place de la Chaudiere Hotel in Hull, Quebec, attended by the ambassador of Egypt, his excellency Adel El-Safty, other dignitaries, and church representatives.

During the period September 1989 to August 1992, which followed the consecration, Fr. Pisenty continued to shepherd the community which the Lord entrusted to his pastoral care. However, in August 1992, HH Pope Shenouda recalled Fr. Pisenty, upon his own request, to serve his church in Alexandria. Fr. Pis-
enty then served for a few years with Bishop Antonios Morcos in Africa, and since 1994 he has been serving at St. George’s Church in Vancouver, B.C.

**Another Transitional Period without a Resident Priest (August 1992-December 1992)**

The church services during that period were coordinated by Fr. Morcos Abdelmassih of Toronto’s St. Mark Church. Several of the father priests from the Montreal and Toronto areas as well as other visiting priests alternated in ministering the church in Ottawa: Fr. Morcos Abdelmassih, Fr. Arsanios Aziz, Fr. Amonios Girgis, Fr. Pishoy Williams, and Fr. Tadros Malaty.

**Spiritual Growth and Completion of the Church Building (December 1992-September 1999)**

HH Pope Shenouda delegated Fr. Shenouda Boutros of Alexandria to serve the Coptic community in Ottawa. Fr. Shenouda arrived on December 30, 1992 in time to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on the 1993 New Year’s Eve. This occasion gave the opportunity for the congregation to reflect on the Lord’s blessings, start a new year and gear towards a spiritual revival.

**Furnishing the Church and Completion of other Projects**

At the time of consecrating the altars on September 1, 1989, the church had only a temporary icon stand made of gabbroic. The church and basement floors were bare, except for the sanctuary and chorus areas which were carpeted shortly before Pope Shenouda’s visit. The sanctuary area was covered with a temporary roof, and the church nave had plastic patio chairs. Many of the
following projects were gradually completed:

- Basement tile floor was laid in 1993.
- Paving of parking lot and completion of its lighting in 1993.
- Special Equipment for the oblation (Korban) was installed and the Bethlehem Room was completed in 1993.
- The Church nave was carpeted in 1994.
- Plastic chairs in the church nave were replaced by pews bought from a Catholic Church in Hull, in April 1995 (at the occasion of celebrating St. Mary’s Apparition in Zeitoun).
- Construction of the tower, church dome, and other sanctuary roofs were completed in 1996. The temporary roofs were meant to last 5 years only but were stretched to 7 years and were about to fall under the heavy snow weight.
- Ceramic tiles for the northern and south-western stair wells in 1997.
- Furnishing of the stage in the basement was completed in 1997.
- Icons on the glass windows in the church nave in 1997.
- Canopy for the church’s main door entrance in 1997.
- Church’s main entrance paved in 1999.

Establishment of St. George and St. Anthony Church in East Ottawa

By 1995, the number of Coptic Christian families in the greater Ottawa area grew to about 200. It was time for St. Mary’s church to give birth to another church. A group of Copts established the core for a new congregation in the east end of Ottawa, named after St. Anthony and St. George. Fr. Shenouda, the priest in
charge of St. Mary’s church, encouraged the group and celebrated the first Divine Liturgy on Saturday, September 30, 1995. Fr. Shenouda continued to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and serve St. Anthony and St. George’s church, in addition to serving St. Mary’s church, until the arrival of Fr. Mikhael Sabry in April 1997 as the first resident priest delegated by his Holiness Pope Shenouda to be in charge of St. George and St. Anthony church.

Fr. Tadros Malaty returned in 1998 to serve the congregation in Ottawa, arranged for the ordination of Fr. Mikhail Fam as the first servant from Eastern Canada to be ordained and serve a church in Ottawa. Fr. Tadros handed the responsibilities of St. George and St. Anthony church to Fr. Mikhail in July 1999.

**Occasions which took place for first time at St. Mary’ Church (shortly before or after its consecration)**

- First use of built-in baptismal font was the baptism of Mr. Mok Tse on June 17, 1989.
- First baby, Elizabeth Nasef, was baptised by his Holiness Pope Shenouda on September 1, 1989.
- First lady joining the Parish Council was Mrs. Madeleine Attya. She was appointed by his Holiness Pope Shenouda in 1990.
- First wedding was that of Lynne and Michael Legault on August 3, 1991, followed on the same day by the wedding of Mervat and Amir Girgis.
- First funeral services were those of Mr. Reda Labib on August 6, 1991 and Deacon Michael Youssef on September 28, 1991. They both served in the church in many areas. May the Lord reward them for all their services and repose their souls in the Paradise of Joy.
- First Bazaar took place during the fall of 1991. This became
a regular annual occasion. Residents of the greater Ottawa community come to the bazaar for educational tours of the church and follow-up on its building progress. They also have the opportunity to taste Egyptian food, and buy Egyptian made souvenirs.

✧ First bookstore opened in October 1990.

✧ First church servant called for priesthood was Fr. Johannes Awadalla (Dr. Farouk Awadalla). He was ordained in Cairo on November 13, 1993 to serve with Bishop Antonios Morcos in Johannesburg, South Africa. Fr. Johannes began serving at St. Mary and St. Abraam’s church in Ajax, Ontario in October 1998 and is currently serving at St. Paul the Anchorite church in London, Ontario.

✧ First use of the basement stage for a professional show by the church’s youth group took place in the fall of 1993.

**Visits from Bishops (other than those who joined Pope Shenouda’s visits)**

✧ Bishop Roweis visited Ottawa several times. His esteemed pastoral visits go back to the early seventies, as Fr. Mathias El-Soriany, before his ordination as General Bishop in 1976. Thereafter, Ottawa became one of the regular places blessed by his twice yearly visits, normally during May and September.

✧ Metropolitan Domadios of Giza, in 1974.

✧ The late Bishop Pimen of Mallawi, in May 1981.

✧ Bishop Tadros of Port Said, several times.

✧ Bishop Antonios Morcos of African Mission, several times.

✧ The late Bishop Agathon of Ismaelia, in 1985.

✧ Bishop Serapion of California, in 1987 at the time when he
was Bishop of General Services.


**Priests who visited St. Mary’s Church in Ottawa and celebrated the Divine Liturgy**

- Fr. Morcos Daoud of St. Marc’s Church, Shoubra, in 1972.
- The late Fr. Pishoy Kamel visited Ottawa in 1974 and celebrated the feast of our Lord’s Transfiguration. This was followed by visits during summers of 1975, 1976, and 1977.
- The late Fr. Mina Iskandar of St. Mina’s Church, Fleming, Alexandria, in 1980.
- Fr. Morcos Habib of St. Demiana’s Church, Pyramids of Giza, several times.
- Fr. Mina Kamel of St. George’s Church in Brooklyn, NY, several times.
- Fr. Luka Sidaros of St. George’s Church, Sporting, Alexandria (currently serving in California), in 1996.
- Fr. Constantin Naguib of Alexandria, in 1996.
- Fr. Augustinus Hanna of St. John’s Church, West Covina, California, in 1992.
- Fr. Arsanios Aziz of St. George’s Church in Montreal, several times.
- Fr. Pishoy Ishak of St. Marc’s Church in Montreal, several times.
Fr. Serafim Yousef of St. Mary’s Church in Montreal, several times.

Fr. Mikhail Aziz of St. Mark’s Church in Montreal, several times.

Fr. Tadros El-Masry of St. Mary’s Church in Montreal, several times.

Church Activities between September 1, 1999 and September 1, 2014

The following pages briefly outline the activities that took place between September 1, 1999 and September 1, 2014.
Sacramental Spiritual Activities

Priesthood

Fr. Shenouda has been serving St. Mary’s Church faithfully and diligently since his arrival in Ottawa on December 30, 1992. Due to growth in the congregation and because of his declining health, in 2004 he asked HH Pope Shenouda to ordain a second priest to serve with him. HH Pope Shenouda agreed. Some attempts to nominate a candidate from the Ottawa congregations did not materialize and HH Pope Shenouda delegated Fr. Barsoum Kamel, who arrived on December 16, 2008. Fr. Barsoum served faithfully in cooperation with Fr. Shenouda and was loved by all. HH Pope Tawadros II called him back to Egypt early in 2014. During July 2014, St. Mary Church’s congregation nominated deacon Hany Abdelmesih for priesthood to join Fr. Shenouda in his service. This nomination is currently under consideration by HH Pope Tawadros.

The Eucharist

We are blessed to celebrate the Eucharist at least three times weekly, in addition to feasts and special occasions, during the whole year, and daily during the fasting periods particularly the Holy Lent and St. Mary’s fast.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the greatest of all God’s works. God has granted us spiritual weapons with which to fight Satan, and certainly this sacrament is the strongest of all. No wonder, for it is the extension of the sacrifice of the Cross by which the Son of God redeemed the world and conquered the devil and death. St. Makarios the Great said, “Through this sacrament you are protected against the devil. Anyone who does not respect this sacrament can be easily conquered by the powers of darkness.”
Through the Holy Communion we can overcome sin, the entire devil’s temptations and all the stumbling blocks of the world. Therefore, the Church calls it “the food of the strong”. No wonder, for we eat that about Whom it is written, “There went power out of Him and healed them all” (Luke 6:19).

Fr. Shenouda has begun an educational liturgy targeted for Sunday-school children, in order to teach them the meaning and significance of undertakings and rituals that occur during the Eucharist.

In addition, a designated English-only liturgy is offered on the First Sunday of the month.

The Holy Communion is food for our spirit and life: “He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be mindful of His covenant.” (Ps. 111: 4, 5).

St. Augustine said, “The one who wants to live with You and gain life, let him proceed and eat this Body”. As the Israelites were fed with manna in the wilderness till they entered the promised land, so does this Holy Communion feed our souls and protect us till we enter the Heavenly Jerusalem.

**Vespers (Evening Offering of Incense)**

To benefit from the Eucharist as indicated above, it is important to attend the Vespers. Vespers is celebrated every Saturday at 7:00 P.M, followed at 7:30 P.M. by a Bible study. During the last 10 years this has covered almost the whole Bible in addition to many sermons about the Divine Liturgy, the Canonical Hours, and the Dogma studies.

**Midnight Prayer and Lauds (Tasbeha)**

Vespers is followed by the midnight prayer (about 30 minutes).
Thereafter, some of the youth celebrate the Sunday Lauds and enjoy its blessings. It is chanted both in Coptic and English (also some Arabic if some so desire).

**Baptism**

Several babies were baptized including many from our sister church of Ethiopia. Also few adults who entered recently into the Christian Orthodox Faith were baptized.

**Holy Matrimony**

The Sacrament of Marriage was officiated for several couples including few deacons who served in the church.

**Departures to Heaven**

Some of our beloved who served the church departed during that period. Their funeral prayers were officiated in the Church.
Other Spiritual Activities

Sunday School (SS) Classes, Family Meetings, and Youth Meetings

As the congregation grew the need for more SS classes, family meetings and youth meetings grew. The Church servants fulfilled the needs for the various groups. However, the family meetings experienced recently a decline in interest, and need a revival and some modifications to meet the various family needs. Two sessions of Preservants’ preparation, each lasting two years, took place and quite few of the participants are presently serving in the SS curricula.

Egypt Fundraisers

Our church community has been increasingly active in supporting our brothers and sisters in Egypt that are less fortunate through fundraising events. A couple of main events are organized on a yearly basis most often during Christmas and Easter.

Conventions

The SS students and youth participated regularly in the corresponding annual conventions held for the Churches of Halifax (N.S.), Quebec, and Eastern Ontario.

St. Mark’s Festival (Mahragan El-Keraza)

During the summer of 2009, the church SS students and youth participated for the first time in this festival’s various competitions along with St. George’s church in Ottawa and the Churches of Montreal, Quebec. Since then it has been held each year, also with participation from St. Mina’s church from Kingston, Ontario.
Deacons and Alhan Lessons

Alhan lessons for 3 groups according to age are conducted every Saturday at 7:30 P.M., during the sermon that follows the Vespers. The deacons who serve the altar are grouped in a way to serve every 12 weeks.

Church Bulletin

This continued in the beginning of the 10 years in the old format but recently took a new look and various modifications.

Spiritual Rallies (Nahda)

These took place from time to time on Saturdays near special feasts or occasions. However, an annual spiritual rally is regularly held during St. Mary’s Fast. Several priests from Ottawa and outside Ottawa participate in those rallies. Fr. Youhanna Nasif of St. Mark’s Cathedral in Alexandria participated for two consecutive years by attending one to two weeks and giving spiritual presentations on each day.

Book Store

The Book Store was given a larger space with various renovations and expansions.

Book Library

A book library for borrowing books or reading in situ was re-established and expanded about five years ago.

Church Website and Broadcasting of Services

A website was instituted for the Church. It is the first system of broadcasting church services in Canada. The website has been redesigned recently with many improvements.
Christmas, Easter and Nairouz Celebrations
The Church Youth present excellent theatrical religious plays in addition to what they present as part of the SS activities during the major feasts of the Church.

Sports
Several sport activities are taking place for the various ages encompassing a number of sports. The goal of these sports activities is to strengthen fellowship and to develop the youth both physically and spiritually. Recently, the Church Sports activities have been organized under the creation of a new club called “St. Mary’s Sporting”. This club encompasses the sporting activities provided to the congregation through the church. Currently, the club offers Saturday Gym sessions to Sunday school children from Gr. 1-12 in the winter. In addition, the club has a men’s, women’s and old timers teams that play soccer in the winter under its domain. The club also supports Futsal (indoor soccer) teams for Sunday school children. Recreational soccer is also provided for all ages. More recently, the club has sought to incorporate Fundraising events to strengthen the fellowship of participants and to become as self-sufficient as it can be.

Church Outings
Few outings take place every year at the level of the whole church. However, more regular ones are conducted for the SS classes, the Youth group, and the Seniors’ group. More recently, a designated Senior’s outing has been organized on the last Thursday of every month.

St. Mary’s Day Care
This started with a few children in the Church basement in 2002. It expanded gradually and later moved to occupy part of St. John’s Centre in the fall of 2005.
Activities Related to the Church Building and Annexes

Painting of Major Icons
During the spring and summer of 2000, Mr. Victor Fakhoury, a master of iconography from Egypt, painted in situ two major icons:

- The Pantocrator in the Altar’s Easterly (Bosom of the Father)
- The Crucifixion Panorama above the Iconstasis

Chandeliers
Beautiful chandeliers of various sizes were installed in the different parts of the church.

Maintenance and Repairs
Several maintenance and repair projects were carried out in the Church Building and outdoors. Worth mentioning are the projects related to security, heating, cooling and ventilation, and the new PA and broadcasting system.

St. John’s Fellowship Centre
As mentioned above, with the growth of the congregation there was an immediate need for more SS classes and other space for youth activities. Therefore, the obvious choice was to build an annex on the site adjacent to the church on 2 Canfield Road (there was another choice of building a larger complex on the sites occupied by two houses owned by the church on Greenbank Road but the Committee studying the project deferred that to a later date).
Building Permit received on February 9, 2005 (St. Paul the Anchorite Feast).

Excavation started during the last week of March 2005.

During the pouring of the foundation on April 1, 2005, Fr. Shenouda placed four New Testament Bibles, in lieu of the usual set of four gospels, one in each of the four corners of the building’s footing.

His grace Bishop Reweis visited the site and sprinkled blessed water on the construction area.

The building was finished in September 2005 and occupancy permit received on September 30, 2005.

The final cost was about $ one million (this originally was to be financed through loans from church members plus mortgage from bank but the City granted the cost for its use for day care.)

**Church Cottage**

In the summer of 2012, the Church purchased a house in a rural region south of Ottawa, to be designated as a church Cottage. This cottage has been used to cater to all age groups and sectors of the congregation. This includes youth, seniors, Sunday-school children, servants, and pre-servants. Its rural location has made it ideal for spiritual retreats.

In 2013, the Church purchased 3.5 acres of adjacent land which is to be used for development in the future.

**Parkmount and Greenbank Properties**

Due to the growth of the congregation, physical outward expansion has been a priority for the current board. The church’s situation (adjacent to two roads) means that the Northern and Western sides of the church are the areas in which this expansion can take place. Consequently, the Church leaders have pur-
chased two houses in this area (9 and 15 Parkmount). Due to the expansion of the Sunday School Service, 15 Parkmount is currently being used to house Sunday school classes.

In addition, the Greenbank properties have been demolished. This land has been designated to be used for a future church project, of which possibilities are currently being studied.

**Visits from Metropolitans and Bishops**

During this period St. Mary’s Church was blessed by visits from the following Metropolitans and Bishops:

- **Metropolitans:** Anba Pishoy of Demietta and Pakhomios of El-Boheira.

- **Bishops:** Anba Abakeer (General Bishop, currently Sweden), Anba Basilious (Abba Samuel Monetary), Anba Cherubim (Qena), Anba Demian (Germany), Anba David (General Bishop), Anba Elijah (Khartoum-Soudan), Anba Kozman (Northern Sinai), Anba Makarios (El-Menia), Anba Makarios (Eretria), Anba Mattaos (El-Sorian Monestary, Anba Moussa (General Bishop for Youth), Anba Pisada (Akhmim), Anba Pisenty (Helwan), Anba Pola (Gharbia), Anba Raphael (General Bishop), Anba Reweis (General Bishop), Anba Sarabamoun (Om-Dorman-Soudan), Anba Tadros (Port Saied), Anba Theophilos (Southern Sinai), Anba Thomas (El-Qusia), Anba Youssef (Bolivia), Anba Youssef (Southern U.S.A.).
Sister Church in Ottawa, St. George and St. Anthony Coptic Orthodox Church

St. George and St. Anthony Church, established in Ottawa in September 1995 (see above under first 10 years), continued its services in temporary locations until a beautiful church was built at 1081 Cadboro Road, Ottawa, Ontario. Its altar was consecrated by HH Pope Shenouda III on May 31, 2008, and a second priest, Fr. George Mikhail, was ordained on November 14, 2009 to assist Fr. Mikhail Fam in serving the growing congregation.

The two sister churches of St. Mary and St. George & St. Anthony continue, with the grace of our Lord, to live as one community with three resident priests in charge of the pastoral work.
Books Published by St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Ottawa*

The Katameros of Sundays

This book contains the readings of all Sundays, including the Sundays of Lent and Pentecost. It also contains the readings of the Major and Minor Feasts of our LORD Jesus Christ.

Katameros of the Days

This book contains the readings of all the Days throughout the Coptic year.

Katameros of the Holy Lent

This book contains the readings of all the Days of the Great Lent, preceded by the readings of Jonah’s Fast. It also contains the readings of the feasts of the Holy Cross (10th of Baramhat), the Annunciation Feast and Commemoration of the Resurrection of our Saviour (29th of Baramhat).

Katameros of the Pentecost

In all these Books we use In the translation of the «New King James», the version of the Holy Bible used by our Coptic Orthodox Church.

* Deacon Dr. Ibrahim Halim is to be thanked and commended for his great efforts in publishing the above books and the present booklet. May the LORD reward him with goodness for this excellent and useful work.
Book of the three Laqqans and El-Sagda (Kneeling Prayer)

Laqqans of the Epiphany, Great Thursday and the Feast of the Apostles. The Segda of the day of Pentecost Feast.

Hymns books for the following Feasts:

- Nayrouz
- Cross
- Kyahk & Nativity fast
- Nativity to Presentation of the LORD into the temple
- (Including feasts for: Children of Beatlehem, Circumcision, Theophany & Wedding Cana El-Galil)
- Laquan of the Epiphany
- Annunciation
- Lent
- Easter including the Ascension
- Pentecost (including the kneeling prayers)
- Apostles Fast & Feast
- Laquan of the Apostels
- Flight to Egypt
- St Mary Fast & Feasts including the Transfiguration
- 29th of Coptic Month

Glorification Hymns for the following Saints:

- Abba Kyrillos VI
- Akhmem Martyes
- Archangel Gabriel
- Archangel Mikhail
- Archangel Raphail
- Fr Bishoy Kamel
- Fr Mikhail Ibrahim
- St. Aba-Eskhiron
- St. Abanoub El-Nehassy
- St. Abi Fam
✨ St. Abraam
✨ St. Antonios
✨ St. Athanasius
✨ St. Barsoume The Bare
✨ St. Bashnouna
✨ St. Bishoy
✨ St. Demiana
✨ St. George El-Askandri
✨ St. George ElMozahem
✨ St. Georges Prince of Martyrs
✨ St. John, the Baptist
✨ St. John, the Evangelist
✨ St. Joseph the Carpenter
✨ St. Julius El-Akfehas
✨ St. Karaas the Anchorite (this book was translated to French & Spanish)
✨ St. Macarius The Great
✨ St. Mari-Mina
✨ St. Marina, the Martyr
✨ St. Mark
✨ St. Mercurius
✨ St. Moses the Black
✨ St. Paula 1st Hermit
✨ St. Peter, the Seal of Martyrs
✨ St. Rewis
✨ St. Samuel the Confessor
✨ St. Shenouda
✨ St. Sidhom Bishay
✨ St. Simoun El-Kharaz
✨ St. Tekla Hemanout
✨ St. Theodoros
✨ St. Toumas
✨ Sts. Abakir & Youhana
✨ Sts. Kozman & Demian
✨ Sts. Maximus & Demitius
Spiritual Hymns
(This book includes 251 English hymns, Published by St. George & St. Antony Church)

The Agpya
(This book in French Published by St. George & St Joseph Montreal)

Prayer Books for Different Service
Holy Matrimony Liturgy
Engagement
Holy Uction (The Readings)
Holy Uction (the complete book: in English & in French)
The Rite of Receiving the New Priests after They Spend 40 Days in the Monastery
Baptism Prayer
Blessing New Home Prayer
Rite of Ordination
Funeral Service Prayers

Papal Hymns
Ordinary Days Communion Hymns

Synxsarum (In Arabic & English, Book for every Coptic month, 12 books)

Divine Liturgy book (Kholagy) for Saints Basil & Gregory
Fractions book (include 37 fractions)
Liturgy book for Saint Cyril.
Books Published in Spanish Language:

*These books were published under the supervision of H. G. Bishop Yousef, Bishop of Bolivia*

- The fraction Book
- The Biography of Saints: *St. Anba Moses the Strong, St. Nino, St. Verena, St. Anasimon the Anchorite & Queen, St. Augustine, St. Irene and St. Mary of Egypt.*

Books Under Press:

Raising of Incense (Vespers & Matins) Book
Vesper & Matins Praise Book
Midnight Praise Book
Saints Glorification: *(This book contains the glorification of St. Virgin Mary, the Archangels, the Martyrs and the Saints (total 70 saints))*

Books in Preparation:

The Defnar